

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 AGR-05 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7658

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 8188

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, OCTOBER 21ST

SESSION- INTERIM REPORT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EC COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE LARDINOIS TOLD THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ON OCTOBER 21 THAT THE COMMISSION IS STUDYING A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR IMPORTED FEEDGRAINS. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN PRUDENT IN ITS IMPORT POLICY, AS THE US HAS ASKED. HE ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 26 PERCENT OF EC FEEDGRAIN IMPORT REQUIRE-
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MENTS WILL COME FROM EC SOFWHEAT, AND THAT THE US WILL SUPPLY

ABOUT 7.5 OF THE ESTIMATED 15 MILLION TONS OF IMPORTED FEEDGRAINS REQUIRED BY THE EC, AS WELL AS 7 OF THE 9 MILLION TONS OF SOY MEAL. THE COUNCIL MEETING IS CONTINUING AND WILL SHORTLY ADDRESS THE PRINCIPAL ITEM OF THE AGENDA - SUGAR.

2. EC COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE LARDINOIS IN A LENGTHY OPENING STATEMENT TO THE OCTOBER 21 COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS SAID THAT THE EC IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR IMPORTED FEEDGRAINS, AND HAS RAISED THE EXPORT LEVIES ON GRAINS.

3. HE SAID THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

(A) SUSPENDING ALL WHEAT EXPORT TENDERS EXCEPT THOSE FOR WHEAT DESTINED FOR AFRICA AND INDIA.

(B) SLOWING DOWN FOOD AID SHIPMENTS UNTIL THE SECOND HALF OF THIS MARKETING SEASON.

(C) A THREE- DAY DELAY IN THE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES.

(D) REDUCING THE EXPORT SUBSIDY ON EGGS BY 50 PERCENT.

(E) UNDERTAKING AN EXPERT STUDY OF THE EC CHICKEN MARKET.

(F) STUDYING MEANS FOR ENCOURAGING THE SLAUGHTER OF PIGS AT AND EARLIER AGE IN ORDER TO REDUCE FEEDGRAIN CONSUMPTION.

(G) REDUCING THE SUBSIDY ON GRAINS AND POTATOES FOR STARCH MANUFACTURED BY 50 PERCENT, WHICH IT ESTIMATES WOULD SAVE 50 MILLION U.A. PER YEAR.

4. THUS FAR, THE MISSION HAS ONLY BEEN ABLE TO GET FRAGMENTARY REPORTS ON MEMBER STATE REACTIONS TO THIS PART OF LARDINOIS' STATEMENT.

5. LARDINOIS THAN SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE US AND WELCOMED ITS "GRAIN LICENSING SYSTEM." HE SAID THE US ASKED THE COMMUNITY TO BE PRUDENT IN ITS IMPORT POLICY AND THAT HE, LARDINOIS, BELIEVES THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS ACTED IN THIS FASHION.

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6. HE THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE COMMUNITY'S GRAIN SITUATION:

(A) EC SOYBEAN MEAL REQUIREMENTS ARE 9 MILLION TONS, OF WHICH 7 MILLION WILL COME FROM THE US AND THE BALANCE FROM BRAZIL.

(B) EC FEED GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS WOULD NORMALLY BE 15 MILLION TONS. THIS YEAR EC SOFT WHEAT WILL REPLACE 4 MILLION TONS. THE BALANCE OF 10 TO 11 MILLION TONS WILL COME FROM IMPORTED

CORN, SOGHUM, ETC. OF THE
BALANCE OF 10 TO 11 MILLION TONS, 7 TO SEVEN AND ONE HALF
MILLION WILL COME FROM THE US.

(C) EIGHT MILLION TONS OF WHEAT ARE EARMARKED FOR EXPORT. OF
THIS QUANTITY, 6 TO SIX AND ONE HALF MILLION ARE ALREADY SOLD, OR
HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR FOOD AID SHIPMENTS. THIS LEAVES A
BALANCE OF 1 TO 1 AND ONE HALF MILLION TONS FOR THE MOST AFFECTED
LDC'S .

GREENWALD

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